Specification Amendments:

In the specification, please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 1-3 as follows.

This application is a divisional ~~of continuation in part~~ of Serial No. 09/566,876 filed May 8, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,350,583 which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/926,509 filed on September 9, 1997, now abandoned.

In the specification, please replace the paragraph at page 50, lines 1-9 as follows.

E. coli bacteria (clone 1548374) has been deposited at the American Type Culture Collection (A.T.C.C.), ~~12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852~~ P.O. Box 1549, Manasas, Virginia 20108, as of February 27, 1997, under the terms of the Budapest Treaty and will be maintained for a period of thirty (30) years from the date of deposit, or for five (5) years after the last request for the deposit, or for the enforceable period of the U.S. patent, which ever is longer. The deposit and any other deposited material described herein are provided for convenience only, and are not required to practice the present invention in view of the teachings provided herein. The cDNA sequence in all of the deposited material is incorporated herein by reference. Clone 1548374 has been accorded A.T.C.C. Deposit No. 98591.

In the specification, please replace the paragraph at page 62, lines 1-17 as follows.

Example 11a: Expression of Protein in a Cell Line Using Plasmid 577

A. Construction of a PS190 Expression Plasmid. Plasmid 577, described in U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/478,073, filed June 7, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 6,020,122 and incorporated herein by reference, has been constructed for the expression of secreted antigens in a permanent cell line. This plasmid contains the following DNA segments: (a) a 2.3 Kb fragment of pBR322 containing bacterial beta-lactamase and origin of DNA replication; (b) a 1.8 Kb cassette directing expression of a neomycin resistance gene under control of HSV-1 thymidine kinase promoter and poly-A addition signals; (c) a 1.9 Kb cassette directing expression of dihydrofolate reductase gene under the control of an SV-40 promoter and poly-A addition signals; (d) a 3.5 Kb cassette directing expression of a rabbit immunoglobulin heavy chain signal sequence fuse dot a modified hepatis C virus (HCV) E2 protein under the control of Simian Virus 40-T-Ag promoter and transcription enhancer, the hepatitis B virus surface antigen (HbsAg) enhancer I followed by a fragment of Herpes Simplex Virus-1 (HSV-1) genome providing poly-A addition signals; and (e) a residual 0.7 Kb fragment of Simian Virus 40 genome late region of no function in this plasmid. All of the segments of the vector were assembled by standard methods known to those skilled in the art of molecular biology.